

FEB 4 1964

WASHINGTON STAR

Oswald Move To Return to Russia Probed

By MIRIAM OTTENBERG
Star Staff Writer

The presidential commission investigating the Kennedy assassination today focused on Lee Harvey Oswald's efforts to return to the Soviet Union before the assassination.

Mrs. Marina Oswald, Russian-born widow of the accused assassin, identified documents relating to the proposed Russian trip during her second day under commission questioning.

Chief Justice Earl Warren, chairman of the commission, told reporters after the morning's closed-door session that today's progress was slow because the documents had to be read to her so that she could identify them for the record.

He said the documents included letters she had written to her husband, letters relating to Oswald's request for a passport, documents requesting permission from the Soviet Union to return and some letters from Oswald to his wife.

Spoke in Russian

Mr. Warren recalled that Oswald's letters to Marina were in Russian.

"She told us that she didn't talk better English because Oswald always communicated with her in Russian," the chief

justice said. The commission is proceeding chronologically through the life of the Oswalds from their arrival in this country in June, 1962, and the assassination on November 22, 1963.

Mr. Warren said the commission has now reached Oswald's trip to Mexico, which occurred on September 26, 1963. It was during that trip that Oswald visited the consulate of the Soviet Union and Cuba in Mexico City and reportedly argued loudly with officials of both consulates when he was told he would have to wait for visas to visit both countries.

Mr. Warren said that some questioning on the Mexican trip had already been done. He indicated that the questioning

has already covered the New Orleans, Fort Worth and earlier Dallas aspects of Oswald's life.

Asked if Mrs. Oswald appeared to be affected by the reading of the letters passing between her and her husband Mr. Warren said, "She has not been upset at all."

When he was pressed about the documents he insisted that they had already been mentioned in press reports but he declined to go into detail about what they contained.

From the way the Chief Justice phrased his answers he seemed to be implying that Oswald was trying to take his wife and two small daughters back to Russia with him. The chief justice kept referring to "their return" to Russia.

Would Stay in U. S.

Mrs. Oswald has shown no inclination to return to her homeland since her husband was slain as he was being transferred from Dallas police headquarters to the county jail two days after the assassination. The 22-year-old widow has said repeatedly that she wants to stay in the United States.

She was accompanied by a quartet of Secret Service agents for this morning's hearings.

In addition to Mr. Warren, other commission members on hand today were Allen Dulles, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency; Senator Cooper, Republican of Kentucky; Representative Ford, Republican of Michigan, and John J. McCloy, banker and former United States High Commissioner in Germany.

After yesterday's session, the chief justice acknowledged that the going is "laborious" because questions and answers have to pass through an interpreter, but he was obviously satisfied that Mrs. Oswald is telling all she knows about the events leading up to the tragedy in Dallas.

Asked if the full record of her testimony will be made public, the chief justice said, "There may come a time when her testimony is released but it may not be in your lifetime."

He explained that matters of security may be involved, but he promised "some kind of a statement" after the testimony is taken.